

OF THE DIVIDED SKIRT.

IS IT AN EVOLUTION OR DID IT COME INTO BEING COMPLETE!

Plorence Finch-Kelly Compares It to the Woman and the Dress of the Chinese

[Copyright, 1890.] Slowly but surely the divided skirt question is setting womankind against itself—bifurcating feminine opinion as distinctly as the skirt itself is divided. The views pro and con are as emphatic as feminine views are apt to be, on whatever subject, and the question gets argued between believers and unbelievers, scearers and non-wearers, an increasing number of times every day.



THE DIVIDED SEIET. For, undoubtedly, the divided skirt is gaining ground and has won already a large army to its wearing and defense. It has been only three years since it sprang, full gathered, trimmed and divided, from the brain of the lady for whom it has achieved distinction, into the talk of women and the news columns, beadlines and paragraphs of the news-

Three years ago nobody had even thought of a divided skirt. One woman, more inventive than practical, had sewed per petticont together, back and front, and had tried to wear it in that shape. But the attempt to make Siamese twins out of her propelling members had not proved entirely successful and comfortable, and she had gone back to the orthodox form in petticoats gladly and grate-

Now patterns by the hundred are sent out by the firm of the lady to whom all the talk about it is due, and the same firm carries a large stock of the made goods in all materials from red flannel to soft, lace trimmed silk. Several dry goods houses keep it always on hand. One of them spends a good deal of money advertising that they keep it. It no longer attracts curious crowds when it is displayed in the store windows.

The fact that several actresses, among them Rosina Vokes, wear the article, made from dainty and costly materials, has given it additional pres-

> cently the mighty Felix himself. ing. from the queen city of fashion. bewildering mass

that the divided 2 Wakirt is now a Parisian fashion. The Irish launso well needs tomed to the article that she no longerasks, asshe did at first, "Do yezgin'rally have ONEIDA COMMUNITY it counted two or

wan? The woman who wears one is no longer an object of curiosity to her feminine friends, for a goodly number of those friends have probably domed it them-

But the divided skirt has not gone unchallenged in its career as a conquerer. It still has enemies who rail at it, enemies who sneer at it, enemies who ridicule it. Every woman who wears it hears such expressions as these whenever the subject comes up for discussion among her women friends: "How perfeetly hideous!" "The very idea of wearing such a thing is disgusting!" "Really, it's immodesif" But if one may judge from the apparent amount of demand for the skirt, it is gradually making its way into the ranks of standard articles of

Is the divided skirt an evolution of the bloomers of forty years ago? Did the idea come from China or Turkey? Or did it "just grow?" Or was it simply born "as is?" There are those who say it is descended, in direct line, from the bloomer costume. If so, it does great and much needed credit to its fore mother. It would be difficult to imagine a costume more murainly and ungraceful than the bloomer-unless it were the distended hoopskirts, pinched waists and bedraggled trains, against which the bloomer was a protest. But the divided skirt, when made of pretty materials, is a very dainty and a very witching garment and certainly has beauty grace in its favor, whatever else may be said of it. But when it isn't made of pretty materials-well, it is then fit company for the bloomer. But it is so diferent, in form and intention, from the bomer that it cannot be claimed as an evolution from that brave but unbomis-

ful syle of dress. It is even less akin to the trousers of the Turkish woman. They are her out- ity. ward and distinctive raiment. The bloomer was their next of kin, and passion and sedness of the mint. ashamed of the connection, which it sought to hide with the skirt of compromise. In form the divided skirt is more like the Chinege woman's tronsers than ship; prevents buildreams.

here the resemblance is very remote. Celestial trousers are long and flapping and ugly, and take the place of the civil-ized woman's dress. The divided skirt is shorter, makes no display of itself, confines itself to its original purpose of supplanting the underskirt, and makes no overt attacks upon the outside dress, Therein lies the difference between the American divided skirt and the feminine trousers of the Chinese or any other na-Bloomer, the Tronsers of the Turkish tion. It is simply a shy little underskirt that wouldn't attempt to be anything else for the world, and which wishes to be kept well covered by a gown of orthodox length.

The truth is, the divided skirt is like no other article of raiment known to the feminine half of the world. It is a product of the bifurcating tendency of evolution-that tendency which split chopsticks into two tined forks, divided single pronged hair skewers into two pronged hairpins, changed the toga of the Romans into the modern trousers, and, perhaps-who can say?-gave mankind two legs instead of one.

That same birfurcating tendency has been at work upon woman's apparel this many a day. Time was, and not so very long ago, when each article of her rai ment would have answered fairly well to the Turkish woman's description of Lady Monatgue's dress-trousers with one leg. And now there is left, at least among that large section of womankind that has adopted the divided skirt and its concomitants, but one single article, the outside gown, that is safe from the attacks of division and still keeps its circling, enveloping form and purpose.



TURKISH WOMAN'S DRESS, And there is a rumor that even this, in the specific form of riding habit, is about to be attacked by the bifurcating

"Do tell me," I said to a woman who sings the praises of her divided skirt at every opportunity, "what there is about that garment which makes every woman every other woman to the faith?"

ment and fits around the waist and over her shoulders and arms are so plump the hips so neatly and brings out so beautifully every pretty curve and falls in such soft, graceful lines, and is altogether so fetching, that I stand before my glass and admire it every time I reach that stage of dressing or undress-

"Besides, it never gets wet, or soiled. sent out a or bedraggled from the street, no matter model of a di- how hard it rains or how long you are wided skirt that is out. It is so light that you hardly know one beautiful and | you have anything of the kind on, and so lessens the necessary weight of the of lace and frills clothing and makes backaches less freand slik—a thing duent. You can have better command that Minerva herthat Minerva her-self would be better and be more graceful. You can willing to sell her owl and her owl and her rown to get. So to do with more ease and pleasurecept cross your kness, and if you attempt to do that with a divided skirt on you'll wish you hadn't. And nobody who wasn't initiated would ever guess that dress has become you weren't dressed underneath your



CHINESE WOMAN'S DRESS. gown just like other women. And that's why I like my divided skirt, and shall never, never wear any other kind." FLORENCE PENCH-RELLY.

THE LEGENDS OF GEMS, .

January, Garnet-Constancy and fidelity

February, Amothyst-Preventive against

March, Bloodstone-Courage, wisdom and firmness in affection. April, Sapphire-Free from enchantment

motes repentance. May, Emerald-Discovers false friends and

June, Agute-Incores long life, health and prosperity

July, Ruby Discovers poison; corrects lead, evils resulting from mestaken triendships. August, Sardonyx - Insures reasegal felic two parts lend.

September. Chryselite - Free from evil October, Oppi-Denotes hope and scarp- tin and one part lend

it is like any other piece of feminine apparel, barbarous or civilized. But even of Feminine Beauty.

[Copyright, 1890.] The change in the ideal of feminine beauty in the last generation is striking. The present generation will remember the pictures hanging in their mother's parlors of ideally beautiful women. These pictures represented a female with a large, bulging forehead, hollow chest, sloping shoulders and a thin neck, curved something like a crooked necked sion pervaded the female's face, the self.' more consumptive the more levely. Long curls drooped about her cheeks, and generally a full blown red rose was The picture usually bore the name "Isabella," "Rosabella" or "Angelina." But all this, which may be called the crooked necked squash style of feminine beauty, tailor made girl is now the beauty. She has square shoulders, a full neck, a flat back, and carries her head which artists of that day considered the curve of ideal beauty, in our time would stamp a girl as round shouldered to a deformity, and send her in haste to the gymnasium to practice exercises that would send her out again flat of back, square of shoulder and full and deep of chest. The ideal feminine beauty has now a suggestion of strength that it has not had in modern times and which brings it nearer to the ancient Greek model than it has ever been before. We begin to understand that strength combined with harmonious development constitutes perfect beauty.

The women artists of New York have set a good example to their sex else-where. A number of the strongest of them have formed a club of their own, called the Woman's Art club. They have grown in influence and numbers till they are now able to give art receptions of their own, and very creditable ones, too.

The newpapers announced that Bishop Judge. Hurst's wife "died at the residence of her husband," Cannot a woman have a home of her own even to die in?

A minister writes The Chicago Advance that he had linely attended a bunquet at which 150 women were present, and many of them made dinner speeches. They had toasts and a toast master and a rule forbidding any woman to speak more than two minutes. The speeches were not only able and witty, but they were audible. "I shall now," said the minister, "feel more at liberty to urge the women to take part in prayer meet-

Mrs. M. O. W. Qliphant is one of the most versatile of writers. Once she proposed to the editor of Blackwood's Magazine to write all of one number, the serial story on which she was then engaged, and five other articles on different topics and in different styles.

Eliza Archard Conner

Paris Fashions.

PARIS, March 28,-The other night I was at a dinner at the Russian embassy and I could not help falling in love with who wears one so anxious to convert the toilet worn by the young Duchess de Bligny. Her robe was cut high in "Oh, it is such a dainty, pretty gar- the neck and with long sleeves, because that it would not be keeping Lent strict-



TOILET OF THE DUCKESS DE BLIGHY, ly to display them. Her dress was of pink surah, embroidered delicately with silver. Over this was a train of pavy blue velvet, also embroidered with silver. The arrangement of it across the front was peculiar and very stylish, as you

I noticed a pretty and decidedly stylish | Press. costume on a young lady who is visiting Mme. Carnot. She is a young married lady, and does honor to Mme. Carnot, who is not so very tasteful as she ought to be to uphold the honor of her sex and nation. The costume in question is of old rose colored poult de soie, bordered with five rows of narrow velvet, in lightershade; the skirt very slight-7/ ly draped. A dainty basque wrap was worn with it of tan colored cloth; trimmed with

brown velvet and PARISIAN CHIC. dark brown brasil and long flots of velvet ribbon. The hat

was of Tuscan, in tan color, faced with

brown velvet, and with old rose colored

phimes. Just the last touch was added in the tan colored gloves, and the pretty wearer caught the grace and chic of Paris, and displayed it, too. MARQUISE D'A.

USEFUL INDUSTRIAL FACTS.

Eleven pounds of nails will lay 1,000 laths. Glazing solder is equal parts block tin and

Plumbing solder is one part block hin and One thousand laths will cover 50 square yards of surface.

Fine societ is an allow of two parts block One theward shingles slaid four inches to November, Topur-Fability and friend- the weather will cover 100 square feet of amy

CONQUERED HIMSELF.

Work, Will and Watt-The Changed Ideal | He Had the Flesh Under Thorough Sub-"So you wish to learn Christian science," said a teacher of that "doc-trine" to a lank fellow that had applied

> "Yes, sir. What are your terms?" "Five dollars for three lessons." "All right; I'll take the first lesson right now.'

The teacher then began to lay down the principles of the "science." "You squash. A general consumptive expres- must first learn," said be, "to conquer "All right," the pupil answered.

"You must exterminate every human desire; must give yourself up to the rulperched in her hair above the left ear. ing of your spirit instead of yielding to a single impulse of the body." "All right," the student agreed.

"Well," the teacher one day remarked when the term had been completed, "I has vanished from the earth. The think that you are now prepared to gradnate with honors."

"All right; much obliged." "But have you not forgotten some-

thing?' the teacher asked when the student had started out. "No, reckon not."

"Yes, you have forgotten to pay me the five dollars." "Oh, you see, I had a strong desire to pay you—a very strong desire of the flesh, as it were—but have succeeded in

conquering all that sort of thing. So

long F-Arkansaw Traveler. Sure as Tuxes. Jonesiwas congratulating Mrs. Simpkins on her luxurious home and the many comforts of life that she enjoyed, as Simpkins was in receipt of a large sal-

"Yes, Mr. Jones; it's all very well as long as it lasts, but what would happen if Simpkins should take it into his head

"My dear madam," exclaimed Jones in one of those prophetic outbursts for which he is nozed, "in that case you would certainly become a widow,"-

They Were Contagious. "Is that your dog?" asked one leisurely looking man of another on Pennsylvania avenue.

"Good dog?" "Yes; I expect to make a ratter of

"Ever catch anything?" "Yes. "What did he catch?"

"Fleas,"-Washington Post,

Particular About the Air. A lady was out house hunting with her husband. Every place they went to she was particular to ask if the air was good. Finally her husband said: "Why are you so infernally particular

to ask about the air? You ought to know that the air is good in all these places." "I want to be sure of it," replied the woman, "for air is about all your family gets to live on."—New York World.

Expecting Too Much from It. "Grindstone, I don't take much stock In the idea that a fish diet builds up the brain. I've lived on fish, fish, fish for three-straight weeks and I feel less like doing mental labor than I did before I began. Fish phosphorus is a humbug." "Kilfordan, you have been expecting too much from it. Phosphorus only

S. H. Kohn, A. W. Oliver, M. W. Levy, L. A. Wal-ton, S. T. Tuttle, N. P. Niederlander, W. R. Tucker, John Davidson, J. C. Rutah. stimulates the brains. It won't create them."-Chicago Tribune.

"So, Mr. Dowell, you were once a mis-"I suppose you had some very inter-

esting experiences among the cambals "A number of them." "Were they hospitably disposed?" "Well, they frequently seemed very anxious to invite me to dinner."-Washington Post.

Settling Scores.

Burly Countryman (squaring off before dentist who has just extracted a tooth after breaking it three times)-Well, mister, you've made a mighty bungling job o' that, and I'm going to say to you what you just said to me.

Dentist (alarmed)-What's that? Burly Countryman-Let's have it out. Burlington Free Press.

Mrs. Bascom-Isn't it dreadful, the tortures that are inflicted on poor dumb animals by these vivisectionists?

Mrs. Backlot—Awful! If they've got

to vivisect 'em, why can't they at least have the mercy to kill the poor critters first, I'd like to know?-Burlington Free

The French "Veuve."

Booker (a seeker after knowledge)-What is the abbreviation "V" which so frequently precedes the names of French

Jumbler (who knows it all)--Why, don't you know? It stands for "vidder." -Chicago Times.

engagement with young Van Numb? Mahel-lie wrote "Sweets to the sweet" on a box of caramels he sent me.



WICHITA, - - - KAN. Coyote Pete-What yer practicin' fer, Eke? Got a gradge ag'in' some one? Dendiy Ike-Naw; but me pard in thar's got a touch of rheumatiz, an' I'm makin' a perous plaster fer him. - Puck.

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All diffre greatly to their inside—
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and story newly woulded pair.
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-Chicago Heraid WICHITA, KANSAS, The Name Would Suit. The excitative use of bridal courses," remarked Amy.

"They ought to call it the "Devenue," add- Marken, Yangston, Y

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